

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3786

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 975

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR CH KN

SUBJECT: PRC VICE MINISTER COMMENTS ON KOREA

1. UK DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS, MICHAEL WILFORD, CURRENTLY VISITING PEKING, MET WITH PRC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER HAN NIEN-LUNG MAY 20. IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION WHICH CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF STANDARD CHINESE WARNINGS AGAINST THE SOVIET THREAT, AND THE NECESSITY FOR EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY, WILFORD QUESTIONED HAN QUITE SPECIFICALLY ABOUT PEKING'S ATTITUDE TOWARD KOREAN REUNIFICATION. EXPLAINING THAT UK ASSUMED KIM HAD BEEN TOLD IN PEKING THAT PRC FAVORED PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION, WILFORD ASKED A) IF HAN THOUGHT KIM WOULD HEED THE MESSAGE, AND B) IF HE DID NOT COULD THE PRC AVOID INVOLVEMENT. HAN RESPONDED, THE WHOLE PROBLEM WAS ONE OF MISCONCEPTION, THAT KIM HAD MADE HIS POSITION CLEAR THREE YEARS AGO THAT HE FAVORED PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION, AND, CONCLUDED HAN, "I THINK YOU NEED NOT BE CONCERNED."

2. COMMENT: WHILE HAN DID NOT REPLY SPECIFICALLY TO WILFORD'S QUESTIONS, HIS REMARKS CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE
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CLEAREST ASSURANCES WE HAVE SEEN FROM A SENIOR CHINESE

OFFICIAL THAT WHATEVER THOUGHTS KIM IL SUNG MIGHT HAVE HAD ABOUT
EARLY MILITARY ACTION AGAINST THE SOUTH HAVE BEEN DISCOURAGED.
AS A BRITISH COLLEAGUE COMMENTED, HOWEVER, MUCH DEPENDS
ON KIM'S STATE OF MIND, AND IF CIRCUMSTANCES WERE TO
DEVELOP IN THE SOUTH THAT HE COULD CONSIDER REVOLUTIONARY
HE MIGHT STILL BE TEMPTED TO ACT IN THE EXPECTATION THAT
THE PRC COULD NOT BUT COME TO HIS AID.
BUSH

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